

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All Staff and Professional Staff

From: Hospital Health Care Worker Vaccine Prioritization Committee

Date: February 23, 2021

RE: **COVID-19 Vaccination: Staff prioritization update**

We are pleased to share that vaccinations for those included in the Highest Priority Group (identified in last week's memo) are expected to be completed in the next day (for those consenting). Those in the Highest Priority Group who have not been but wish to be vaccinated may schedule an appointment at any time. Provided vaccine supplies are received as anticipated and there are no changes in direction from the Ministry or Public Health, vaccinations for hospital Health Care Workers will continue as expected.

Scheduling of **vaccinations for the Very High Priority Group will now begin**. This group (identified below) consists of several thousand people. In order to maintain clinic flow while not overwhelming the phone lines, codes will be sent out to leaders in a stepwise fashion. The highest risk groups within this priority group will be called upon first. When there is equal risk among a large group, departments will be called upon randomly.

The vaccination clinic will contact the department managers/leads of those who qualify with appointment booking information.

The *Very High* priority group includes the following:

- Adult Mental Health
- Cardiovascular Catheterization Lab
- *Critical Support Services (eg. Housekeeping, Nutrition, Admitting, Utilization)
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Forensic Mental Health
- Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP)
- Hospitalists, Internal Medicine physicians, and Family Medicine physicians with admitting privileges (If not already captured in another area)
- Infection Prevention & Control
- Inpatient Units
- Lab and Phlebotomy (If not already captured in another area)
- Northwest Regional Cancer Care
- Obstetrics and Paediatrics
- Outpatient Services, including Surgical Day Care
- Pharmacy (If not already captured in another area)
- Porterage (If not already captured in another area)

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- Social Work (If not already captured in another area)

Please note that all priority groups include additional staff and professional staff that are regularly assigned to that area. For example, the ECG Technologists who regularly work in the Emergency Department (ED) are part of the ED group.

For details regarding self-declaration of risk factors, please review the February 18, 2021 memo at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Memo-COVID-19-Vaccination-Staff-prioritization-update-Feb-18-2021.pdf>.

Please be reminded that prioritization decisions are made by the Hospital Health Care Worker Vaccine Prioritization Committee which includes representation from professional staff, public health, nursing, administration and bioethics. Our unique geographic need and the current status of COVID-19 prevalence in the community also guides decisions.

We look forward to vaccinating all consenting staff and professional staff as soon as possible and will continue to share updates as they become available.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this process.

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are also available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.

*Critical Support Services: The worker provides non-clinical support to direct patient care workers and, without the worker, safe direct patient care delivery and/or worker safety would be compromised (e.g. housekeeping, supply delivery, security, etc.). Source: https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/CommunicableDiseaseControl/covid19/IH-PH-COV-297%20Principles%20for%20Definition%20of%20Essential%20Health-Care%20Workers_31Mar2020.pdf